

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 04458 031223Z

46-40

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-09 SSO-00 INR-07 PM-03 EUR-12 IGA-01

SP-02 L-02 /052 W

----- 014254

R 030931Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3730

S E C R E T CAIRO 4458

STADIS//////////

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR EG

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF CTF-65

1. WITH SUEZ CANAL SCHEDULED TO BE OPENED ON JUNE 5, QUESTION ARISES WHAT WE SHOULD DO WITH CTF-65 RESIDUAL FORCE. AS YOU KNOW, IT CURRENTLY CONSISTS OF THE OPPORTUNE (A USN SALVAGE SHIP) AND FORCE IS HEADED BY A NAVY CAPTAIN. WE KEPT IT IN THE CANAL AFTER PRIMARY CTF-65 OPERATIONS WERE COMPLETED SOME MONTHS AGO A) AS A DETERRENT TO POSSIBLE HOSTILITIES AND B) TO SHOW OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN ASSISTING EGYPT. THE EGYPTIAN NAVY HAS FOR SOME TIME FELT IT WAS UNNECESSARY, BUT THE SCA AND FAHMY HAVE WELCOMED ITS RETENTION. THE VESSEL IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN CARRYING ON A VARIETY OF MINOR, BUT SIGNIFICANT DEBRIS CLEARANCE AND SALVAGE OPERATIONS FOR THE SCA IN THE CANAL AND PORT TEWFIK/SUEZ AREAS.

2. CTF-65 VESSELS ARE NORMALLY ON STATION SIX MONTHS AT WHICH TIME THEY ARE RELIEVED. OPPORTUNE IS DUE TO BE RELIEVED JULY 22. SHE HAS ENOUGH WORK TO KEEP HER BUSY UNTIL THEN.

3. UNLESS THERE ARE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS UNKNOWN TO US HERE, I RECOMMEND THAT WE OFFER TO KEEP OPPORTUNE IN THE SUEZ CANAL UNTIL JULY 22, THE DATE OF HER RELIEF, AND THERE-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 04458 031223Z

AFTER SEND NO NEW SHIP AND CONSIDER OUR SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE

OPERATIONS TERMINATED. I FAVOR THIS BECAUSE:

A) WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE SCA CHAIRMAN MASHOUR WOULD WELCOME HAVING THE SHIP A FEW WEEKS LONGER TO FINISH SOME OF THE TASKS IN WHICH SHE IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED. THERE IS NO END OF DEBRIS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER IN THE SUEZ CANAL AND ITS APPROACHES. I WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, WANT THE OPPORTUNE TO HANDLE MISSIONS THAT MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO THE MEN OR THE SHIP AND CONTRARY TO USN PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS;

B) AT THE MOMENT THE FRENCH AND BRITISH HAVE NAVAL CONTINGENTS OF THREE AND TWO VESSELS, RESPECTIVELY, IN THE CANAL AREA. THESE ARE MINE HUNTERS FINISHING UP THE JOB. THE FRENCH IN PARTICULAR HAVE AUGMENTED THEIR FORCE IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS IN A CLEAR EFFORT TO MAKE A BIG PUBLIC SPLASH AT THE END. WITHOUT BEING CHAUVINISTIC ABOUT THIS, IT WAS THE USG WHICH FIRST UNDERTOOK THE SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE MISSION, AT EGYPTIAN REQUEST, AND THE USN DID THE BULK OF THE JOB. OURS WAS THE FIRST VESSEL TO BEGIN THE OPERATION, AND I BELIEVE FOR IMPACT PURPOSES A USN SHIP RATHER THAN A FRENCH OR BRITISH VESSEL SHOULD BE THE LAST TO LEAVE.

C) I HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY RPT INFORMALLY ADVISED BY UNCINCNAVEUR, ADMIRAL SHEAR, THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT RETAINING THE OPPORTUNE IN THE CANAL AREA UNTIL JULY 22;

D) IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT AID FUNDING FOR THE VESSEL'S DEPLOYMENT DURING PER PRESENT TOUR ON STATION IS ALREADY ARRANGED. HENCE NO ADDITIONAL MONETARY OUTLAYS BEYOND THOSE ALREADY PLANNED ARE NECESSARY.

4. IF THE DEPT CONCURS, I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING AUTHORIZED A) TO INFORM THE SCA CHAIRMAN THAT, IF HE WISHES, WE ARE PREPARED TO KEEP OPPORTUNE HERE UNTIL JULY 22 TO ASSIST HIM IN HIS DEBRIS CLEARANCE OPERATIONS AND B) ADVISE ADMIRAL SHEAR IN LONDON OF MY RECOMMENDATION AND ASK FOR HIS FORMAL SUPPORT. EILTS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MARINE TRANSPORTATION, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, SUEZ CANAL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975CAIRO04458  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750156-0234  
**From:** CAIRO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750582/aaaacxcq.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FUTURE OF CTF-65  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, EG, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006